GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2111
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2016
Deployment of Surface Miners by CIL
Kothapalli Smt. Geetha

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the surface miners are proposed to be deployed by Coal India Limited(CIL) for selective mining at some of the opencast mines;
(b) If so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
(c) Whether efforts are also being made to iron out the differences over third party sampling and if so, the details thereof and result yielded therefrom;
(d) Whether any decision has been taken with regard to standard operating procedure for third party sampling of coal at the mine end; and
(e) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLEE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a)&(b): Surface Miners have been deployed for selective mining and for ensuring size & quality of coal. Use of surface miner also eliminate blasting of coal thus improving safety and environmental conditions.

Total raw coal production from Open Cast mines and percentage of Open Cast production by Surface Miners from the mines of Coal India Ltd (CIL) during last three years and the current year is given below:
Year Total Open cast production (Million Tones) Production by Surface Miners (Million Tones) % of Open Cast Production from Surface Miner
2015-16(up to December (Provisional) 348.664 167.375 48.00
2014-15 459.196 197.909 43.09
2013-14 426.309 170.819 40.06
2012-13 414.435 155.801 37.59

(c)to(e): To address the issues of dispute between coal companies and Power Utilities/developers and to bring about improvement in the quality of coal supply, the system of Third Party Sampling has been further improved. As per revised instructions on Third Party Sampling issued by Ministry of Coal on 26.11.2015, Independent Third Party Agencies are to be empaneled by Central Institute for Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFR) for taking samples at the loading end on behalf of both the power plant (consumers - including PSU power plants and private power plants) and the coal companies (supplier). Enlisting of third party agencies, for work of sampling and analysis of coal, is being done through a transparent process.

Under the procedure, the authorized representatives of power plant and coal company have to jointly witness the process of sample collection and preparation of the laboratory samples. The samples are to be collected and prepared by the third party agency/independent sampler as per Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) norms. The fee for independent sampling agency is borne by both the coal company (supplier) and the power utility (consumer) in equal measure. The Third Party Agency has to communicate the Analysis Results of the sample within 18 (eighteen) working days of the sample collection to the coal company and the power plant. The procedure also prescribes that coal company or the power plant may raise dispute, if any, within 07 (seven) days of the submission of the result by the Third Party. Analysis of referee samples has to be taken up in a government laboratoryin case of disputes areraised within the stipulated time period.

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